

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2174

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

RANKING OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the various Indian universities do not figure in the top two hundred universities in the world;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has initiated a project to develop guidelines and parameters for ranking of higher educational institutions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to give a special focus to improve the standard of Indian Universities/higher education and bring them upto world class level?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): There are several international ranking systems, which use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions. These criteria are neither universally accepted nor recognised and are therefore sometimes subject to criticism in academic circles. Therefore, these rankings do not necessarily constitute a valid basis for the benchmarking of Indian institutions. In particular, most of the rankings give a high degree of weightage to research output, whereas most Indian Universities have tended to be teaching rather than research institutions.

While figuring in the top 200 universities in the world may be a desirable objective, it cannot guide the policy formulation and reforms agenda of the Government, which focuses not just on quality but on equity and inclusion as well.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The NAAC has considered a project to develop guidelines and parameters for the ranking of higher educational institutions. The project has not yet been finalised.

(e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at the improvement of the quality of education in Indian Universities and has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as the introduction of a semester system, the regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS), etc. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities. The UGC has also issued the Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions, Regulations, 2012 whereby all eligible higher Educational institutions are required to get themselves accredited.

The UGC implements various schemes for providing support to higher education institutions for improving the quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology (ASIST), "Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences" (ASIHSS), Basic Scientific Research (BSR) etc. The Department of Science and Technology, through its programme "Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence" (PURSE), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Fund for the Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) etc. provides support to the universities essentially for research, staffing costs, augmentation of equipment and computational facilities, research consumables and maintenance of the facilities etc.